(Nov. 3-7, 2004) which states that "While agreeing to continue with the existing understandings on the humane treatment and early release of apprehended fishermen, it was decided to constitute a Joint Working Group which could meet frequently to deal with issues relating to straying fishermen, work out modalities for prevention of use of force against them and the early release of confiscated boats, and explore possibilities of working towards bilateral arrangements of licensed fishing."

(d) Does not arise.

Proposal for Employment Guarantee Act

130. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN:

SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce the Employment Guarantee Act;

(b) if so, the details including the districts to which the above scheme is to be implemented, State-wise, category-wise as on today; and

(c), if so, the details including the source of fund and the amount of fund allotted/to be allotted for the above, programme-wise, category-wise as on today?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) The proposal to enact a Central Legislation for the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, which aims to enhance livelihood security Jo poor households in rural areas by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to every poor household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual labour, is under consideration of the Government.

Housing complex for women bidi workers

131. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to build low cost housing complex for women bidi workers in Solapur;

(b) whether Government also propose to build such housing complexes for bidi workers at other locations in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) Com. Godutai Paruleker Mahila Bidi Kamgar Sahakari Gruhnirman Sanstha Maryadit A/B/C, Solapur, a cooperative society of women beedi workers have undertaken a project of construction of 10,000 houses under the Integrated Housing Scheme (IHS) under which the Government is granting financial assistance of Rs. 40,000/- per house or 50% of the actual cost of construction per tenement, whichever is less, to the Individual Beedi Workers/Group Housing Society/State Government for the construction of house throughout the country. Earlier the financial assistance was available @Rs. 20,000/- per house. Besides following cooperative societies of beedi workers of Solapur have also been granted financial assistance under the scheme.

(i) 309 houses by M/s Narsinha Bidi Kamgar Sahakari Gruha Ninnan Sanstha Maryadit, Solapur.

(ii) 277 houses by M/s Shree Swami Samarth Bidi Kamgar Sahakari Gruha Nirman Sanstha Maryadit, Kumbhari, Tah. South Solapur.

The benefits under the scheme are available to beedi workers irrespective of their gender all over the country.

Harassment of Indian workers in foreign countries

132. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that hundreds of Indians working in countries like Singapore are harassed and they are not paid the contracted salary by some companies;

(b) what action has been taken by Government to provide them assistance to help them out; and

(c) whether Government would instruct the Indian Embassies in the respective countries to help Indian workers in getting justice?